

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life**

Held on Friday, February 28, 2003

SGW Campus Hall 769 10:00am

PRESENT: Dr. C. Bertrand, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. R. Côté, Ms K. Curtis, Ms M. Drew, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms A. Kerby, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. L. Lawton, Ms O. Maibroda, Mr. A. Munro, Ms G. Pagé, Mr. A. Sibai, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. A. Slater, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Posius, Ms L. Gould, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. K. Pruden

ABSENT: Mr. S. Zuberi, Ms R. Perreault

Guests: Mr. L. Bissonnette, Ms L. Cornax, Ms S. Magor, Ms S. Spina

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. R. Côté and seconded by Dr. Jans.

A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Bertrand introduced himself to council and briefly spoke about his term as Associate Vice-Rector and Interim Dean of Students. As there were new faces at Council, Dr. Bertrand suggested a tour de table.

Dr. Bertrand took the opportunity, on behalf of Council, to extend his congratulations to Mr. Les Lawton on his 500th Career Victory as Coach of the Stingers Women's Hockey Team. An accomplishment to be proud of.

Dr. Bertrand informed Council that the Student Services 2003-2006 Budget Proposal would be distributed to Council at today's meeting. The Recreation & Athletics budget will be distributed to Council within the next few weeks. Dr. Bertrand indicated that the Student Services Directors would be happy to answer any questions concerning their budgets and suggested that council members contact the Directors before the April CCSL

to clarify any issues. The budget will be tabled for Council's approval at the April CCSL meeting.

Dr. Bertrand brought council up-to-date on the following issues:

- As requested by Council the edition of the "Focus" which profiled Concordia students was distributed to CCSL in December
- As requested Roger Côté distributed information on the new Quebec Government Part-Time Student Loan Programme
- The CCSL Awards Night will be Friday, April 11th at the SGW Faculty Club. The selection committee is comprised of Dr. Bertrand, as chair, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. K. Pruden, Mr. A. Munro, Mr. B. Hamideh, and Ms R. Perreault
- Funds have been secured for the Tuition Waivers for recognition of student participation in university governance as per the approved eligibility requirements
- Funds were also secured to support additional allocations for student projects if necessary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF December 6, 2002

On page 3 of the minutes, paragraph 4, 3rd line, Mr. Munro asked that the word "english" be inserted so that the line would read "...Dr. Graub explained that informal **english** classes do exist through the ISO..."

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 IITS Report (Ms Loni Cornax)

Ms Cornax, Assistant User Group, spoke briefly about the various options IITS is currently investigating in order to improve service for students. Mr. Munro again expressed his concern that the current services were inadequate and felt that Concordia lagged behind in this area as compared to other universities. He questioned whether the service should be subsidized in order to ensure that students had the necessary tools to aid them effectively with their research and studies. Mr. Munro said he was still in the process of gathering information on IITS services offered at other universities. Once Mr. Munro has gathered all this information, Ms Cornax offered to sit down with him to review and discuss his findings. This issue will be reviewed at the May CCSL meeting.

4.2 Policy on Accessibility (Ms A. Kerby)

This policy had been distributed to Council for their comments at the December CCSL meeting. The policy was also sent to every student with a disability who was registered with the OSD Office. Ms Kerby indicated that she had received feedback from students, faculty and staff. The next step will be to send the policy to Senate for approval.

4.3 Concordia Info Services – Hours of Operation (Ms S. Spina)

Ms Spina explained that the normal hours of the Hall Info Services are Monday-Friday from 8:00am-7:00pm. During the “peak periods” in September and January, the hours of operation are extended to 8:00pm. However, Dr. Shaver said that she was told by info service staff that the **normal** closing hour for the service was **6:00pm**. As she had felt these hours were inadequate for an information service, she asked that this item be placed on the agenda. Ms Spina will investigate this contradiction and send the clarification to the CCSL Secretary.

Ms Spina took the opportunity to inform Council that the installation of a “plasma screen” in the Hall Building is in the works. This screen will hopefully aid in the dissemination of important information to the Concordia students, faculty and staff. This service will be especially valuable during September and January to ensure students have quick access to correct, up-to-date information with respect to class locations, cancellations, etc. The screen can also be used to publicize student activities or events. It is hoped to install a similar screen at the Loyola campus.

4.4 Exam Procedures for On-Line Courses (Ms L. Toscano)

Ms Toscano explained that the examination policy is a university policy, not a policy of the Office of the Registrar's. Any revisions to this policy would have to be considered by the Academic Programme Committee. The interim Registrar, Ms L. Healy, a member of this committee, will address the issue of the level of supervision for examinations on behalf of Council. Council reiterated that it is important that the examination procedures for on-line courses be fair and accessible for all students. Ms Toscano will report back to Council on this issue.

Mr. Slater questioned if the exam procedures and regulations for e-Concordia courses are the same for Concordia on-line courses. He was informed they were not.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Presentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities re: Academic Accommodation (Mr. L. Bissonnette)

Mr. Bissonnette gave a brief overview of the research project. A summary of the findings from this research was distributed to council. He noted that there has been an increase of over 600 students who have identified themselves as having a disability. He stressed the importance of ensuring that Concordia provides adequate and up-to-date support for faculty to meet the varied needs of students with disabilities. He also indicated that the focus for the next few years would be:

- To make training a priority for students, staff and faculty
- Become informed and share information on government programs offering technology-based assistance for students with disabilities
- Make internet access for students with disabilities a priority
- Get involved in planning bodies responsible for institution-wide technology purchases and systems development

Dr. Shaver asked how we as staff or faculty could help. Mr. Bissonnette encouraged staff or faculty to contact him directly to discuss any concerns or suggestions. Ms Lipscombe applauded the OSD Office for their proactive approach.

5.2 Fall 2002 Report – Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank

The Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank Fall 2002 Report was distributed for Council's information. Dr. Bertrand noted that the Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank Winter 2003 Report will be distributed before the April 4th meeting. Ms Christina Xydous, coordinator of the service, will be at the April CCSL meeting to answer any questions with respect to the two reports. He reminded Council that these reports must be approved by CCSL before the subsidy of \$20,600 can be transferred to the CSU.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Curran informed Council that during the period of April 14-May 2, there will be 24 hour access to the Webster Library. He noted that during the Easter Holiday Weekend, there will be an interruption to the 24-hour access. The precise hours will be posted on the web.

Mr. Curran updated Council on the CREPUQ Pilot Project. Starting in the winter of 2003, as part of a pilot project, undergraduate students will be able to borrow from other Quebec university libraries if they qualify for a CREPUQ Card. Applications can be obtained from the Circulation Desk. He said that in order for an undergraduate student to obtain a card they must

have demonstrated a very real need or reason. He explained the students' applications are reviewed and in some cases the students are referred back to our own resources. He said of the approximately 16 applications that were received in January only 4 were accepted. He reminded Council that, in accordance with the CREPUQ protocol being applied in all academic libraries in Quebec, these cards are not a right but a privilege.

Mr. Curran informed Council that before the Loyola Science Building is open, there will be a major shift of the collection over the summer in order to ensure that the collections are housed in the more appropriate location /campus for the various disciplines (ie. "science collection" should be available at the Loyola Vanier Library because the Science Departments will be located on that campus, while the "business collection" should be available at the SGW Webster Library. While this will not result in additional space in either Library, the priority is to attempt to place the collections where they are likely to be more handy for faculty and students. He will give Council an update on this re-organization of the facilities at the next CCSL meeting.

Mr. Munro expressed concern that the university is unwilling to provide access to the contracts with Bell, Pepsi and other companies. As both Bell and Pepsi have not indicated any objection to releasing information on their contracts with the university, Mr. Munro questioned the rationale of the university to refuse access to the contracts.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

There will be no further meetings of the Recreation & Athletics Board pending the final report of the Future Search Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

81. September 9, 2002 Demonstration Investigation of the Health and Safety Aspects

Dr. Bertrand said as the report was based on the health and safety issues relating to September 9th, he suggested the discussion be focused on the report's recommendations. Ms Magor briefly summarized the recommendations for improvements. Ms Kerby asked that information be included for disabled students, faculty and staff. This added information should also include recommendations for elderly or pregnant staff, faculty or students.

Mr. Slater felt it was important to address the issue of the university's responsibility and culpability vis-à-vis the September 9th demonstration. Dr. Bertrand said that as Ms Magor's report did not deal with those issues, he asked that the discussion be kept on topic.

Mr. Munro felt there were other broader questions to be asked and issues to be addressed with respect to September 9th . Dr. Bertrand said those questions and issues were not part of the mandate for the report prepared by Ms Magor.

Ms Pagé felt that the university has presented this report as the "official" report on the incident in order to deflect attention on what happened on September 9th.

Dr. Shaver felt it was important to look at the preventative recommendations in the report and center our discussions on those issues in order to be pro-active rather than re-active.

Mr. Slater attempted to return the discussion to the issue of the university responsibility for the events of September 9th. Dr. Bertrand ruled Mr. Slater out of order. Mr. Slater then raised a motion to have Dr. Bertrand step aside as chair. The motion died for lack of a second.

Although Mr. Côté appreciated the concerns expressed by the students, he felt it was also appropriate for CCSL as a body concerned with student life to discuss how we as a community can uphold the freedom of speech for all. He stressed the importance of expressing ourselves in a civilized manner and yet still providing a safe environment for students, faculty and staff. How do we do that? Dr. Bertrand agreed and added that perhaps this could be an agenda item for future meetings.

Ms Kerby asked if the students have any recommendations for prevention. Mr. Slater confirmed that the CSU is preparing a report on the September 9th demonstration.

Ms Pagé asked if there was any confirmation on who or what department paid for the security expenses on September 9th. Mr. Brisebois was not able to answer that question at this time.

Mr. Munro asked for clarification on the increased relationship and shared information on students that occurs between the security departments of different universities. Mr. Brisebois answered there is a normal

collaboration but not any illegal activities. He strongly suggested that any suspicions of illegal activity should be reported to the police.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 4/03 10:00am Loyola Campus AD 308

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Ross, and seconded by Ms Curtis.